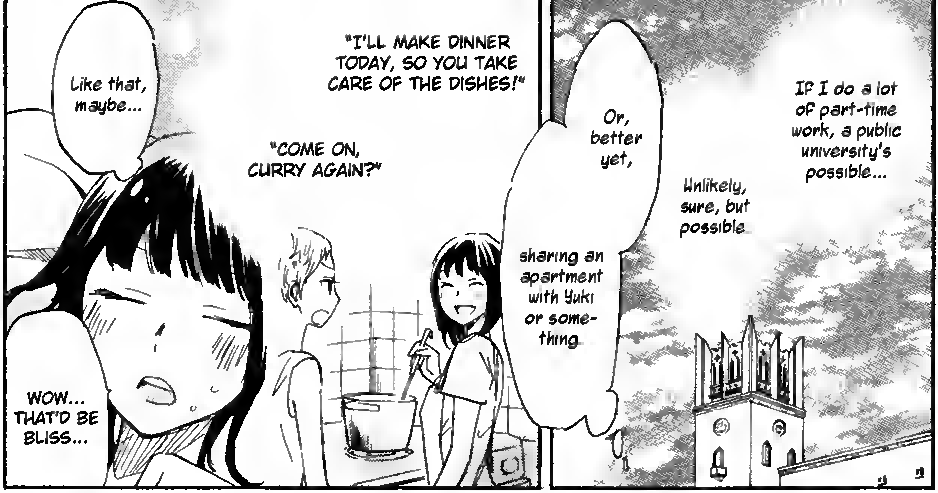
NOW THEN, TURN TO PAGE 54.
YUKI...
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
HEY, CAN WE SHARE YOUR TEXTBOOK?
PSSST!
Tap
Tap
I'm sleepy...
It's so boring without Akari here...
yaaawn
I SORTA LEFT MINE AT HOME...

SCRAPE
rattle
OKAY, NOW LET'S JUST PUSH OUR DESKS TO-
IT'S OKAY? THANKS!
AH.
...
SWISH
EH?
UH...
shuffle
shuffle
shuffle
SHE..
SHE SAID SHE DOESN'T FEEL WELL, SO
SHE WENT HOME EARLY..
She seriously didn't even say anything to the teacher? Or me?
WHERE'S SHE GOING?
WHAT'S THAT? SENDOU?
HM?
rattle
slam
step
step
vrooom

PHOTO 04

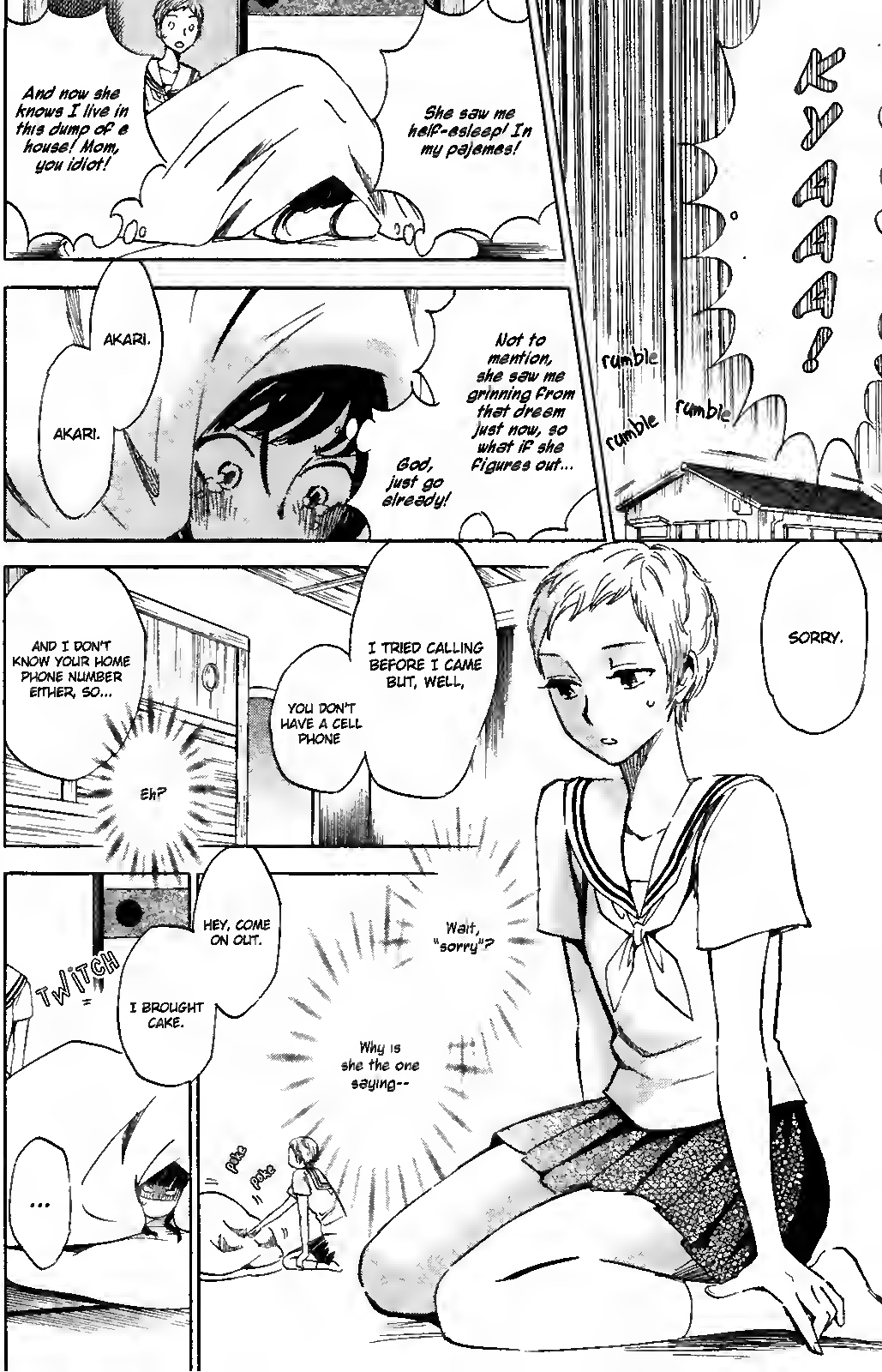
Wages

Day after day,
I almost let it slip from my mouth, and then I swallow it back down, over and over.
Should I go to Tokyo, too?
This isn't about what I want to do. I'm just too stuck on the thought that I don't want to lose Yuki.
God, I'm so dumb.
This is just my fever making me overthink things.
The whole question's a lost cause.
But,
I mean, I know that's not a real reason to leave home.
still..


"I'LL MAKE DINNER TODAY, SO YOU TAKE CARE OF THE DISHES!"
Like that, maybe...
"COME ON, CURRY AGAIN?"
WOW... THAT'D BE BLISS...
Or, better yet,
sharing an apartment with Yuki or something
Unlikely, sure, but possible
If I do a lot of part-time work, a public university's possible...

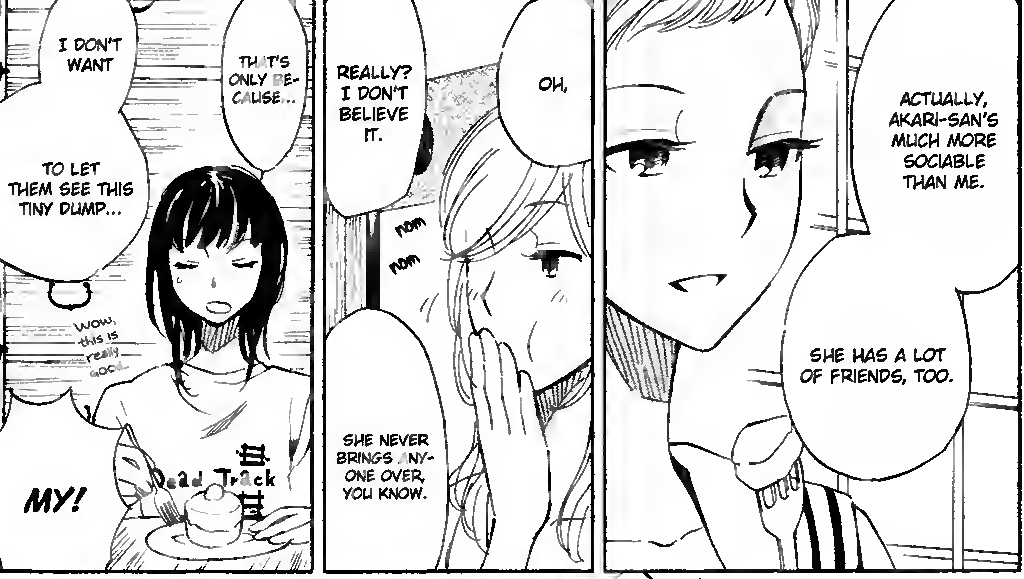
WHAT WOULD BE BLISS?

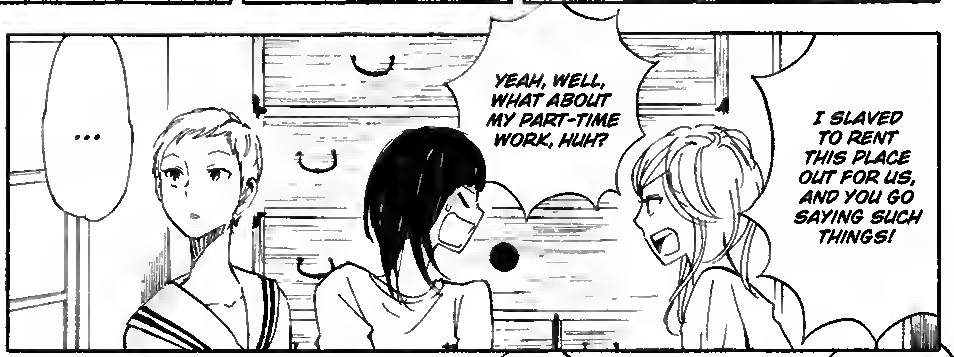
I'M PAYING A VISIT
WAIT, WHY ARE YOU...?
Am I dreaming?
YOUR FRIEND STOPPED BY, SO I WENT AHEAD AND LET HER IN.
KI-
SMACK!
YU-
Ah...
Owwww!

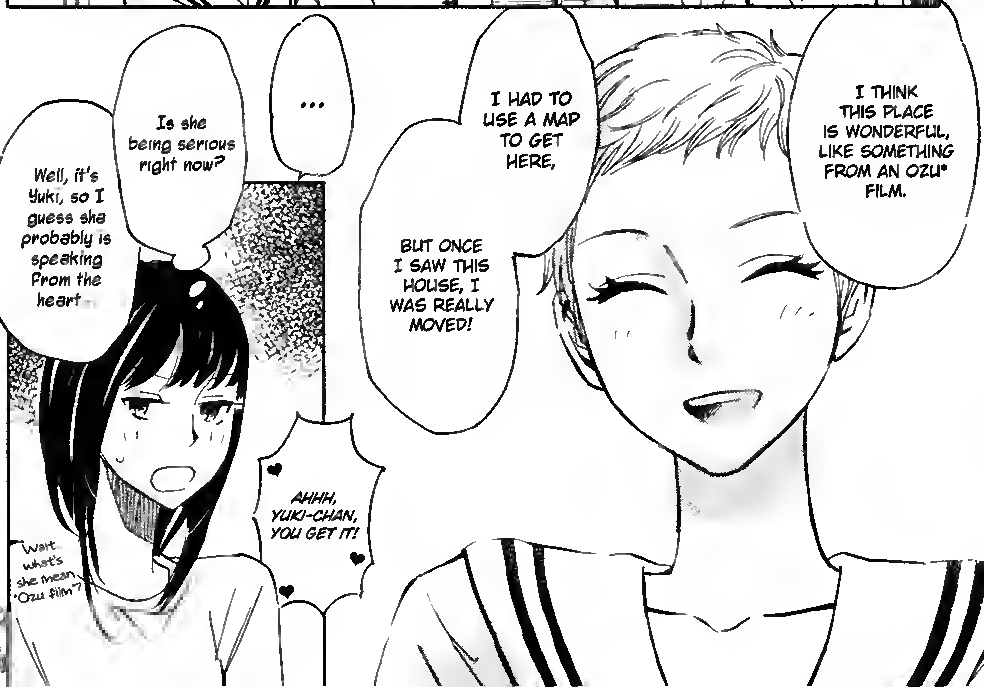

And now she knows I live in this dump of a house! Mom, you idiot!
She saw me half-asleep! In my pajamas!
AKARI.
AKARI.
God, just go already!
Not to mention, she saw me grinning from that dream just now, so what if she figures out...
rumble
rumble
rumble
SORRY.
I TRIED CALLING BEFORE I CAME BUT, WELL,
YOU DON'T HAVE A CELL PHONE
AND I DON'T KNOW YOUR HOME PHONE NUMBER EITHER, SO...
Eh?
Wait, "sorry"?
HEY, COME ON OUT.
I BROUGHT CAKE.
TWITCH
Why is she the one saying--
...
pitter
patter

I'LL GO.
SORRY
...GUESS I'M BOTHERING YOU.
SCHOOL'S BORING WITHOUT YOU AROUND,
TAKE IT EASY.
SO GET WELL SOON, OKAY?
...
WAIT!

IT'S OKAY TO JUST GO BACK TO SLEEP, AKARI..
I HOPE PREPACK-AGED TEA IS FINE.
pour
changed her clothes
NO WAY.
LET'S HAVE THAT CAKE!
WE CAN
HAVE IT TOGETHER!
Ho Ho Ho
SO, YOU'RE YUKI-CHAN?
THANKS FOR GOING TO ALL THIS TROUBLE!
MOM, GO AWAY!
YUKI-CHAN, THANK YOU SO MUCH~
I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD MAKE FRIENDS WITH A GIRL THIS OBSTINATE!
...
PEAR.
I'LL HAVE PEACH, THEN.
AH, WOULD YOU LIKE THE PEACH OR THE PEAR?
Dead Track
pinp
AW, WHAT FOR? I WANT SOME CAKE, TOO!
IT'S OKAY, ISN'T IT, YUKI-CHAN?
MOM, WOULD YOU JUST GO TO WORK ALREADY!
PLEASE DO STAY WITH HER, YUKI-CHAN!
AHA HA!
I HAVE THE LATE SHIFT TODAY! TOO BAD FOR YOU~
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER SHE COULD EVEN MAKE FRIENDS!
YES, OBSTINATE! SHE NEVER LISTENS TO ME AND ALWAYS TREATS ME LIKE SOME OLD HAG!
SNICKER
OBSTIN-ATE...?


I DON'T WANT
TO LET THEM SEE THIS TINY DUMP...
THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE...
Wow, this is really good...
MY!
REALLY? I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
SHE NEVER BRINGS ANYONE OVER, YOU KNOW.
OH,
mm mm
ACTUALLY, AKARI-SAN'S MUCH MORE SOCIABLE THAN ME.
SHE HAS A LOT OF FRIENDS, TOO.

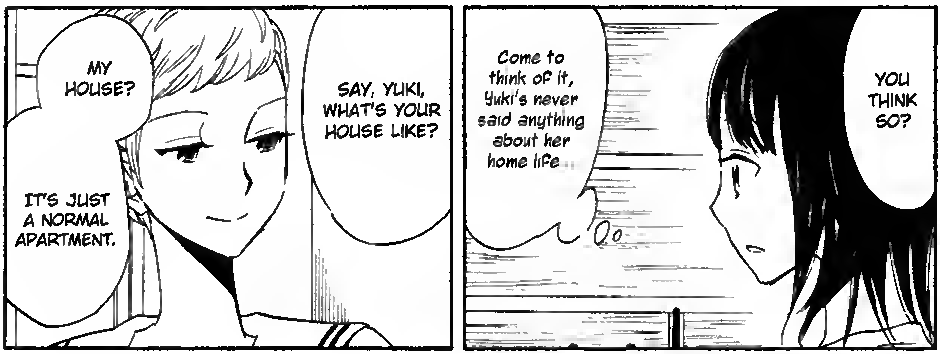


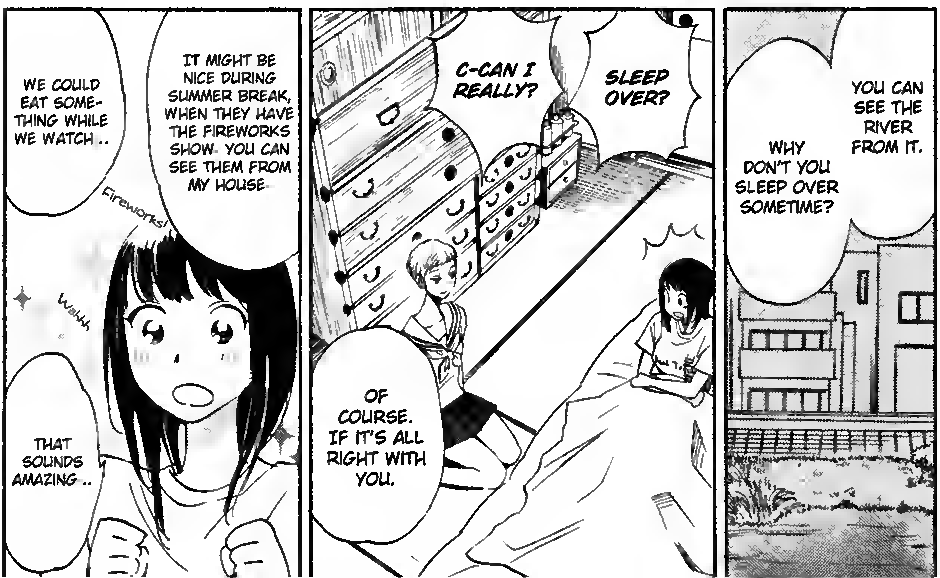

Is she being serious right now?
Well, it's Yuki, so I guess she probably is speaking from the heart...
...
I HAD TO USE A MAP TO GET HERE,
BUT ONCE I SAW THIS HOUSE, I WAS REALLY MOVED!
I THINK THIS PLACE IS WONDERFUL, LIKE SOMETHING FROM AN OZU* FILM.
AHHH, YUKI-CHAN, YOU GET IT!
Wait, what's she mean, "Ozu film"?

*TN: Ozu Yasujiro, a highly renowned director known for such films as "Tokyo Story" and "Floating Weeds."

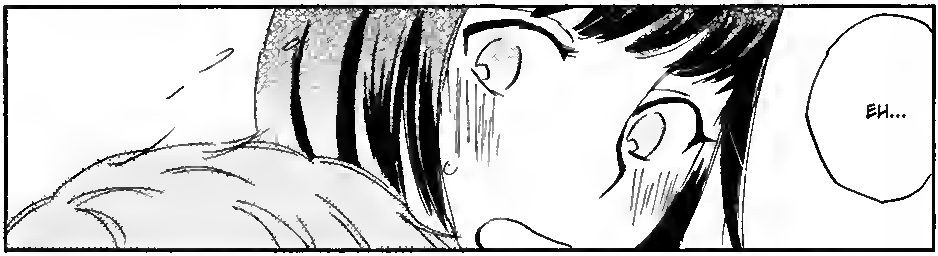
I'M HOME!
I SMELL SUMMIN' SWEET!
SLAAAM
WELCOME BACK, KEISUKE!
He's being so loud again.
WHOA, CAKE? CAKE?
IS THIS SOME KINDA GIRL PARTY? DO I GET CAKE?
YES, YOU DO! CALM DOWN ALREADY!
HAHA HA!
huff
huff
NICE TO MEET YOU, KEISUKE-KUN.
smile
YUKI-CHAN HERE BOUGHT IT ON HER WAY TO COME SEE AKARI.
BE SURE TO THANK HER FOR IT, OKAY?
I'M MIYAMA KEISUKE, AND I'M IN THIRD GRADE!
H-HELLO...
SHIVER
Alweg
Safege
NO WAY!
KYAHAHAHA
OHHH, SO YOU COULD GIVE THAT NICE OF A GREETING ALL ALONG, KEISUKE?
H-HEY, WHAT GIVES?
WHAT, YUKI-CHAN'S PRETTY, SO YOU TRY AND ACT COOL?
You little brat!
WHA? I DON'T GET YOU!
HA HA HA
You don't have any appeal!
The hell do you mean?
C'mon she doesn't even look like she's Akari's age!

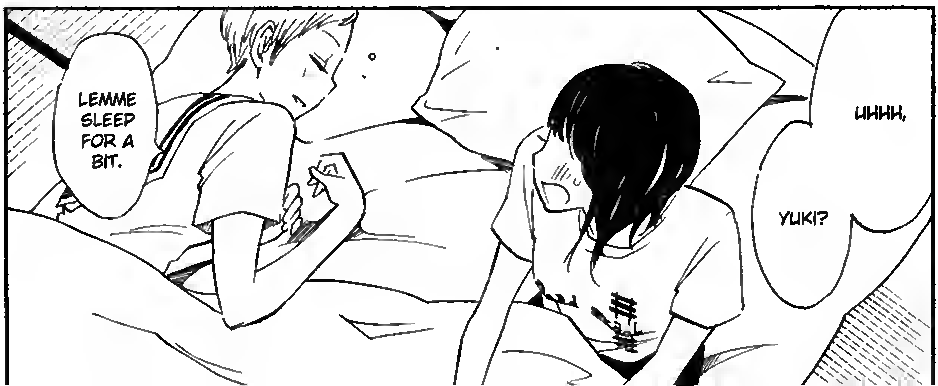
I'M AN ONLY CHILD, AND MY PARENTS AREN'T AROUND THE HOUSE MUCH, SO...
IT WAS REFRESHING.
WHAT FOR? IT WAS SUCH A GREAT TIME.
SORRY ABOUT THEM...
HAHHH...

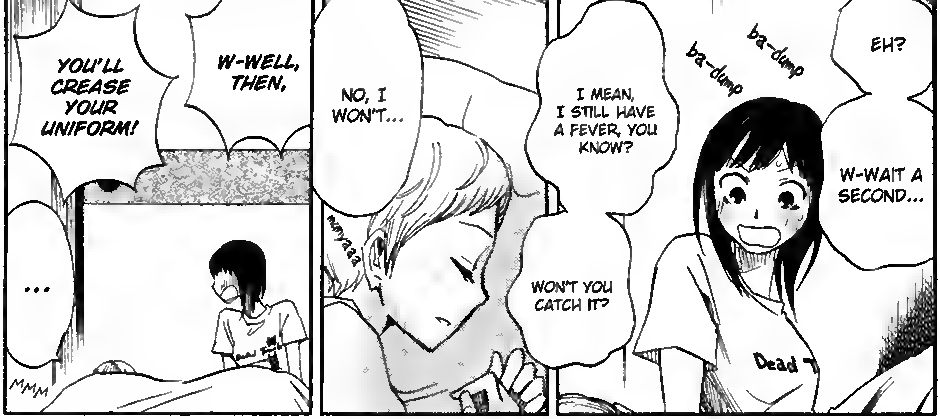

SAY, YUKI, WHAT'S YOUR HOUSE LIKE?
MY HOUSE?
IT'S JUST A NORMAL APARTMENT.
Come to think of it, Yuki's never said anything about her home life...
YOU THINK SO?

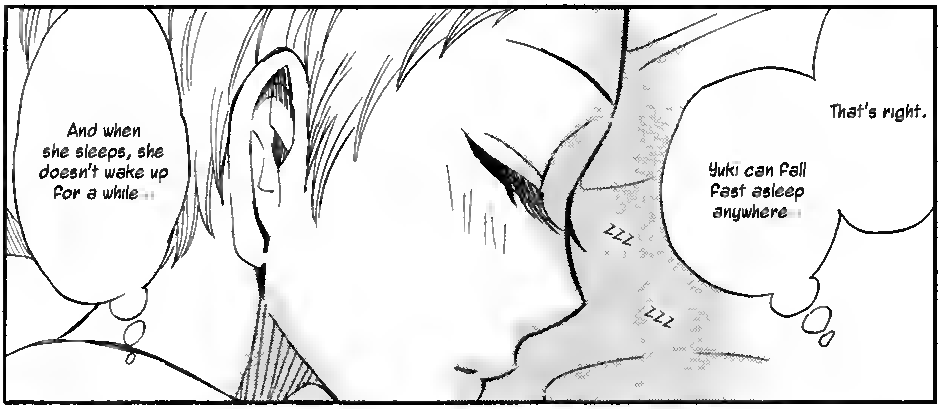

IT MIGHT BE NICE DURING SUMMER BREAK, WHEN THEY HAVE THE FIREWORKS SHOW. YOU CAN SEE THEM FROM MY HOUSE.
WE COULD EAT SOMETHING WHILE WE WATCH..
Fireworks!
Wahh
THAT SOUNDS AMAZING..
C-CAN I REALLY?
SLEEP OVER?
OF COURSE. IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU.
WHY DON'T YOU SLEEP OVER SOMETIME?
YOU CAN SEE THE RIVER FROM IT.

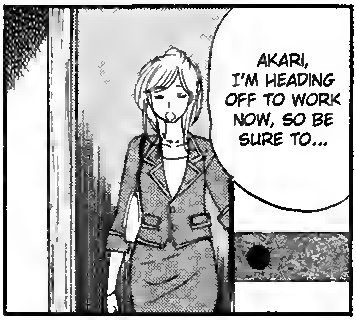
I FEEL KIND OF DROWSY...
MMMM...
stretch


EH...

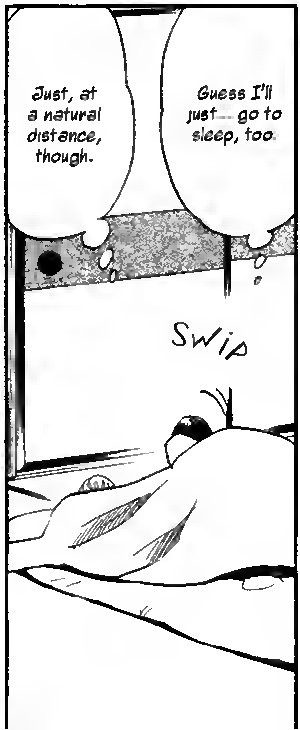

LEMME SLEEP FOR A BIT.
UHHH, YUKI?

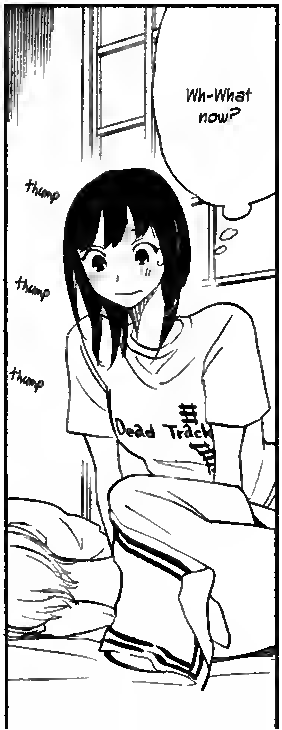

W-WELL, THEN,
YOU'LL CREASE YOUR UNIFORM!
...
MMM
NO, I WON'T...
PUPYAAA
I MEAN, I STILL HAVE A FEVER, YOU KNOW?
WON'T YOU CATCH IT?
ba-dump
ba-dump
EH?
W-WAIT A SECOND...
Dead T


And when she sleeps, she doesn't wake up for a while...
That's right.
Yuki can fall fast asleep anywhere...
ZZZ
ZZZ


AKARI, I'M HEADING OFF TO WORK NOW, SO BE SURE TO...

OH, MY.
THEY REALLY DO GET ALONG...

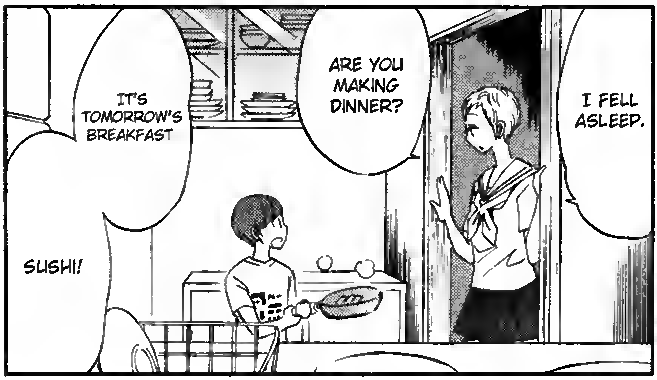

Guess I'll just... go to sleep, too.
Just, at a natural distance, though.
Swip

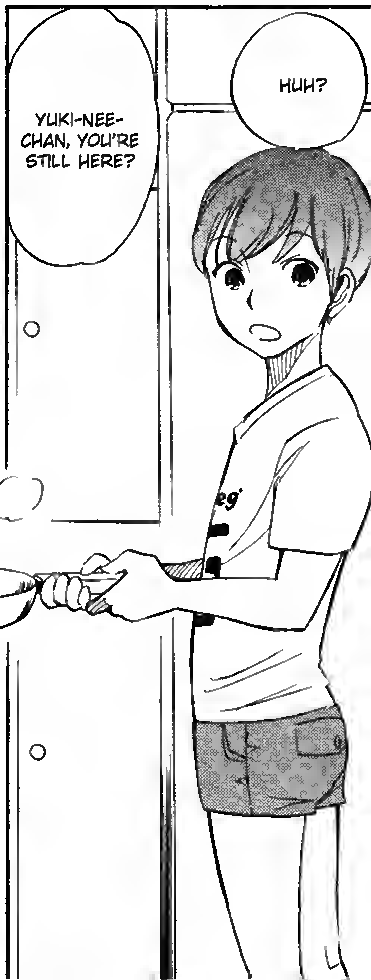

Wh-What now?
thump
thump
thump
Dead Track

GOOD NIGHT.
Mom usually only ever talks about what has to get done,
but today, out of the blue, she said so many kind things
"Please do stay with her, Yuki-chan!"
Yes. That's exactly how I feel right now, too.

STAY WITH ME...
FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN...
SSSHHHH
SWIP
...

?
Something smells good...


ARE YOU MAKING DINNER?
I FELL ASLEEP.
IT'S TOMORROW'S BREAKFAST
SUSHI!

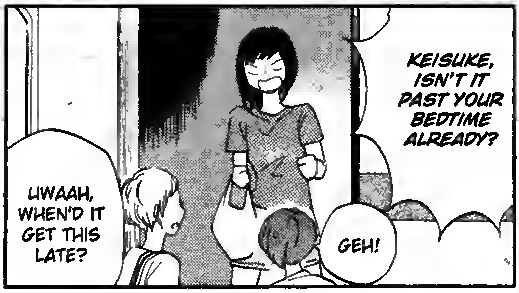

HUH?
YUKI-NEE-CHAN, YOU'RE STILL HERE?
USUALLY AKARI MAKES IT,
BUT SHE'S BEEN SLEEPING.
FSSSS
FSSSS
WOW.
Not their mom?
SO IT'S NORMALLY AKARI, THEN.

WELL, BOTH OF YOU.
WHO, ME? OR AKARI?
...THAT'S SO MATURE
WE ALWAYS USE THE SAME STUFF, TOO LIKE SAUSAGE.
YUP.
SEE, MOM WORKS AT NIGHT, SO BY MORNING SHE'S ALWAYS DEAD TIRED.
CUT IT, AND, POW, FINISHED!
WOW.
IT LOOKS TASTY...
...
I suppose I haven't had dinner yet actually
Growl
WANT A PIECE?
SURE.
YEAH. IT IS TASTY!
RIGHT?

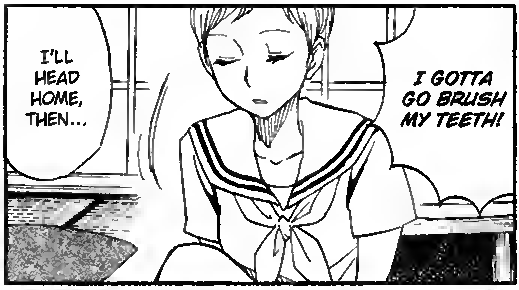
YO!
MORNING!
I'm fine really
HOW'S YOUR COLD?
AKARI, ARE YOU OKAY?
Mm?
Fwap
Fwap
Fwah so hot
HERE, MIYAMA-CHAN, I'VE GOT YOUR SALARY FOR THIS MONTH.
H
HUH?
UM,
SIR? THERE'S A MISTAKE HERE.
HERE, LOOK AT THE SECTION FOR LAST WEEK.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

DID SOMEONE MAYBE PUNCH MY TIME CARD BY ACCIDENT HERE?
HM?
OH, YOU MEAN ON WEDNES-DAY?
NO, THAT WAS, YOU KNOW,
THAT FRIEND OF YOURS.
YOU WERE SICK, SO WE HAD A "REPLACEMENT" AT WORK THAT DAY.
WHEN I ASKED HER ABOUT THE PAY, SHE JUST TOLD ME TO "GIVE IT TO MIYAMA-SAN."
WH-
WHO WAS THIS...?
No way.
EH?
SHE DIDN'T TELL YOU?
SIR!
PLEASE, JUST TELL ME WHO IT WAS!
WHOOPS! MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT...
OH, A PRETTY GIRL WITH SHORT, WHITE HAIR...
Yuki...
SHE SURE WAS A STRANGE ONE, THOUGH.
SAID IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SHE'D BEEN INSIDE A CONVEN-IENCE STORE AND STARTED TAKING PICTURES LIKE CRAZY.
KA-SHIN
KA-SHIN
The work of a re-incarnator!
AND AFTER THAT, SHE BOUGHT A WHOLE BUNCH OF ICECREAM.
Why?

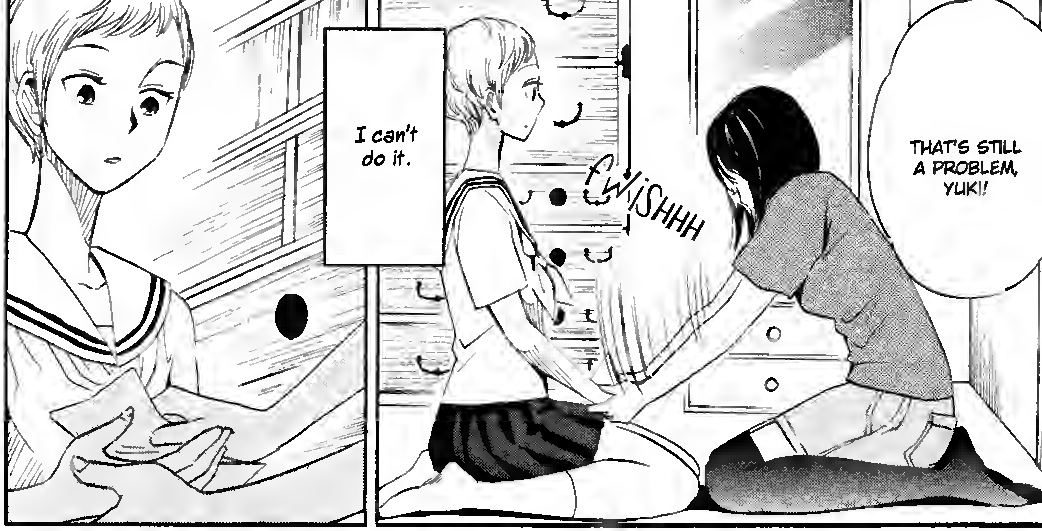
WELCOME BACK!
YUKI, WHY ARE YOU--?
I'M HOO-
WAIT,
Vent
Why did she...?

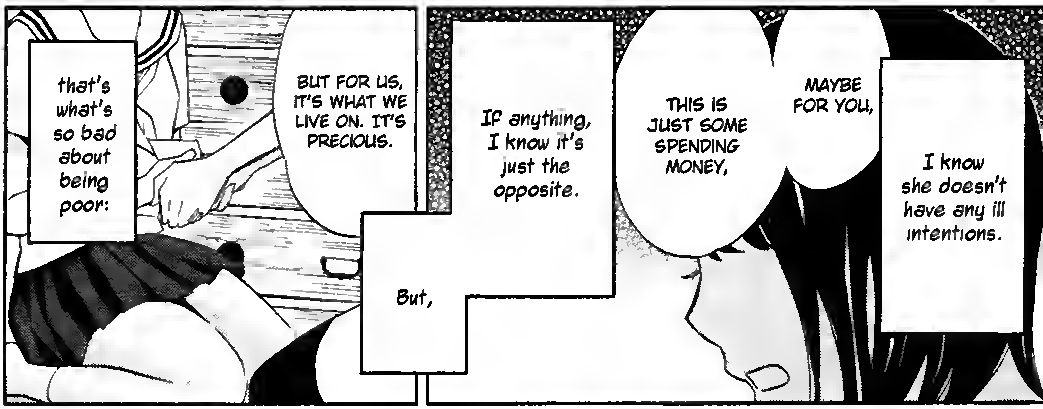

KEISUKE, ISN'T IT PAST YOUR BEDTIME ALREADY?
UWAAH, WHEN'D IT GET THIS LATE?
GEH!

AKARI, YOU WANNA PLAY? IT'LL BE A LEAGUE GAME.
YUKI-NEE-CHAN'S ACTUALLY A TOTAL SLUGGER!
KEISUKE-KUN LET ME PLAY BASEBALL WITH HIM!


I'LL HEAD HOME, THEN...
I GOTTA GO BRUSH MY TEETH!

THIS IS YOUR SHARE FROM WORK.
DON'T PLAY DUMB.
?
A LETTER?
IT'S FINE YOU EARNED THIS YOURSELF.
AHH,
AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE.
WELL, I'LL JUST BUY KEISUKE-KUN SOME CANDY, THEN.
Ahh...
I CAN'T ACCEPT IT.
THE THING IS,


I can't do it.
SWISHHH
THAT'S STILL A PROBLEM, YUKI!


that's what's so bad about being poor:
BUT FOR US, IT'S WHAT WE LIVE ON. IT'S PRECIOUS.
But,
If anything, I know it's just the opposite.
THIS IS JUST SOME SPENDING MONEY,
MAYBE FOR YOU,
I know she doesn't have any ill intentions.

We never allow ourselves to accept anything from others,
THAT'S NOT IT.
THEN, THIS IS JUST MORE YOU CAN USE, ISN'T IT?
We can never just accept good will from people,
and in the end, that extreme self consciousness
and we always twist their kindness into questions of intent.

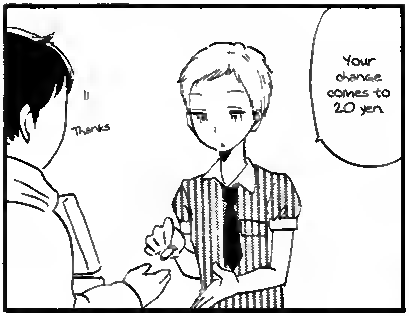
THE TRUTH IS,
YUKI,
THE FACT THAT YOU'D GIVE ME YOUR TIME LIKE THIS...
is so much more painful than simple poverty.

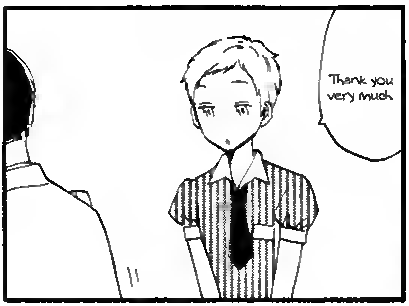
FOR ME TO BE HAPPY.
THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH

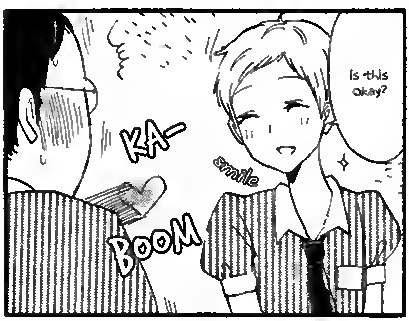
I'LL KEEP THE MONEY,
BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT ANY LENDING OR BORROWING BETWEEN US.
I UNDERSTAND NOW
SO...
HUG
!
I OUGHT TO AT LEAST--
NO!
ALTHOUGH, SINCE MY WAGES CAME UP TO 800 YEN AN HOUR BECAUSE OF YOU,
IT'S NOT ABOUT A WAGE!
1300 YEN?
IT'S ABOUT IMPORTANCE...!
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH, BUT...
SO, 1000 YEN, THEN?
MAYBE I'M WORTH 800 YEN AN HOUR, BUT YUKI... YOU'RE DEFINITELY NOT!
If I ever became the manager of a convenience store,
HAHA!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CRY, YOU KNOW.

IF MY TIME IS ALL YOU WANT, AKARI, I'LL GLADLY GIVE IT TO YOU.
I'd hire Yuki with my own wages,
so that she could always be by my side,
SO LET ME HAVE SOME OF YOURS, TOO. OKAY?
and all of Yuki's time could be mine.
PHOTO 04 ••••••END

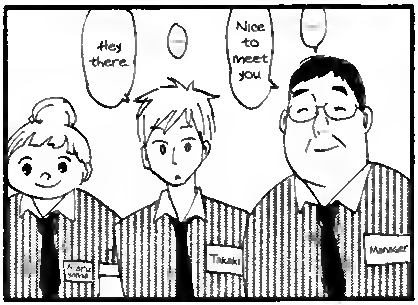
Overdoing It

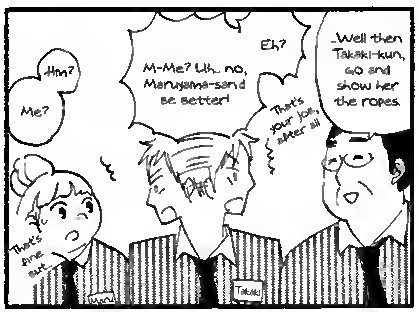


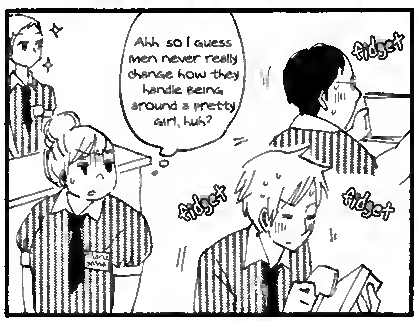




Pinch Hitter







KANO CAME*

She, her camera and her seasons

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Editors: We need people who have a solid background in image editing. We need both cleaners and typesetter. Or if you like to do both that's fine too!
Quality Checkers: We need people who have a good eye. You'll be asked to look for graphical mistakes as well as grammatical ones and list them for the editor to fix before release.
Proofreaders: We need people who have a strong grasp on the English Language. Preferably people who are native speakers to go over scripts before the editor can begin their typsetting.